**1. Carbon Cycling in the Coorong Lagoon**

One possible student project that might be of interest is the question of a local C cycling in the Coorong lagoon, and related CO2 cycle (e.g. the question if parts of the lagoon act as sink vs. source of CO2 and what impact it has on local carbonate/CaCO3 formation vs. dissolution).

Together with a colleague at Waite campus (Prof. Luke Mosley) we are planning to do some pilot measurements soon, with a new portable CO2 analyser, and if this system proofs to be robust, this might be an option for a possible smaller student project.

There will be several sampling campaign in Coorong this year and in near future, related to our ongoing seasonal isotope tracer studies, and the above CO2 / carbonate project can be planned around that. I will discuss possible strategies re: such student project with colleagues at Waite, and will get back to you with more details.

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**2. Identifying salinity and nutrient threats**

Salinity and nutrients are threats to the keystone aquatic plant *Ruppia tuberosa.*

Students could survey salinity and evidence of nutrients (filamentous algae or slime) and relate that to the number of seeds found in shallow waters.

This would need some sieves to find the seeds, but these are large and fairly identifiable (i.e. just about to the naked eye). The students would also need to be able to measure salinity and most equipment they have access to won’t cover the hyper saline range in the Coorong but they could dilute the samples (a useful exercise in itself) and then measure salinity).

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